## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 03125 292310Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CPR-01 INR-07 INRE-00 /053 W ------292317Z 037343 /70

O 292242Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7103
RECEPTION CENTER, NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INS NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1088

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FOR ARA DEP. ASST. SEC. BRAY AND OPERATIONS CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, VE

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY TRAVEL OF FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT

- 1. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS INFORMED ME HE IS SENDING PRESIDENTIAL PLANE URGENTLY TO TAKE PRESIDENT BETANCOURT, HIS WIFE, THREE DOCTORS AND AN AIDE TO NEW YORK. HE STRESSED THIS WAS A TREMENDOUS EMERGENCY AND PLANE IS LEAVING APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M. CARACAS TIME. AMBASSADOR CONSALVI IS TO MEET PLACE IN NEW YORK.
- 2. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ASKED FOR FACILITIES IN PERMITTING ENTRY OF PASSENGERS.
- 3. PASSENGERS WILL BE: PRESIDENT BETANCOURT; HIS WIFE, DONA RENEE HARTMANN DE BETANCOURT; HIS DAUGHTER, VIRGINIA BETANCOURT; DOCTORS VICTOR BRITO, RAUL ARISTIGUIETA, RAFAEL CASTILLO; AND AIDE MAJOR JULIO POCATERRA MEJIA. CREW IS: COMMANDER RAMON MENDOZA IBARRA, COMMANDER NICOLAS APONTE AZUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND COMMANDER OSVALDO ESTEVEZ. EMERGENCY IS SUCH THAT PEOPLE ARE MOVING IMMEDIATELY TO THE AIRPORT AND IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK IF ALL HAVE PASSPORTS AND/OR VISAS. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ASKED THAT WE FACILITATE ENTRY OF PASSENGERS AND CREW, EVEN IF VISAS ARE NOT IN IMMEDIATE POSSESSION IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY. WE ARE NOTIFYING INS BY PHONE

## OF THIS SITUATION.

- 4. PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS TRIP BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. PROBLEM IS OBVIOUSLY MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ASKED FOR EVERY FACILITY FOR EX-PRESIDENT BETANCOURT WHO IS THE GRAND OLD MAN OF VENEZUELA. THE PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY IS EXPECTING US TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN NEW YORK AND IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY IS DISPATCHING THE PLANE IMMEDIATELY. THIS IS IMPORTANT AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE RESPOND.
- 5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT ALL FACILITIES BE GRANTED IN NEW YORK TO FACILITATE ENTRY OF PARTY AND CLEARANCE OF PLANE, EVEN THOUGH DOCUMENTATION MAY BE LACKING. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA03125
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D770108-0063 Format: TEL From: CARACAS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770313/aaaaakkl.tel

Line Count: 78 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f74ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2968996 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EMERGENCY TRAVEL OF FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AMED, VE, (BETANCOURT)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f74ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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